

# Rural Business Opportunity Grant

**Description:** To promote sustainable economic development in rural communities with exceptional needs, primarily communities that have experienced:

- trauma due to natural disasters or fundamental structural changes;
- long-term population decline or job deterioration;
- persistent poverty (as measured by median household income, unemployment rate, etc.)

**Grant Purposes:** Technical assistance, training, and planning activities to improve economic conditions in rural areas.

Some examples may be:

- Identify and analyze business opportunities
- Identify, train, and assist existing or prospective rural entrepreneurs.
- Establish business support centers.
- Conduct community or multi-county economic development planning.
- Establish centers for training, technology, and trade.
- Conduct leadership development training.



**Who Can Apply?** Nonprofit corporations, public bodies, Indian Tribes, and cooperatives whose members are primarily rural residents.

**Grant Amount:** A maximum of \$50,000 per grant is authorized by the legislation. Competition for funding is nationwide. In FY 2003, \$2,980,500 was available.

**Application Time Frame:** Application time varies and is announced in the Federal Register. Applications for FY '03 were due by June 30, 2003.

**Where Do You Apply?** The point of contact in Georgia is Margaret Duck at 706-546-2154. Additional information is available on the website at: <http://www.rurdev.usda.gov/ga/rbog.htm>

**Examples of projects funded:** Two projects in Georgia were selected for funding in Fiscal Year 2003. The projects were:

*Voyage of Discovery, Inc.*, Columbus, \$150,000 – Funds are to develop a research-based marketing plan to effectively position the Apalachicola and Chattahoochee River System as a tourism destination. This will benefit Alabama, Georgia and Florida.

*Fitzgerald-Ben Hill Development Authority*, Fitzgerald, \$50,000 - Funds are to develop a marketing plan for a Technology Business Park to be used for training and employment opportunities.



Rural Development  
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